

REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-30 and 33-34 have been canceled. Claims 40-56 have been withdrawn, subject to a Restriction Requirement in an earlier Office Action. Upon entry of this amendment, the Claims in the present application will be 31-32 and 35-39. The subject matter of Claims 33-34 have been incorporated into Claim 31. Changes have been made in dependent claims to provide for proper antecedent basis and dependency. The word “about” has been deleted from the claims as suggested by the Examiner, and a typographical error has been corrected. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 31-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons stated in numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the use of the word “about” is not indefinite and the case law supports this. However, because (a) the claims as amended still adequately cover the invention, (b) the doctrine of equivalents may be applied to the scope of the claim without the word “about” in order to determine equivalent infringement, which the word “about” is meant to cover, and (c) in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, it has been deleted in the claims of this application. The typographical error in Claim 31 in the stated range has been corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been obviated and should be withdrawn.

Claims 31-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,059,997 to Hall (hereinafter “Hall”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims have been amended to specifically set forth that the polymer resin is a polymer blend comprising (1) from 10 to 100 wt% of ***a maleic anhydride grafted polypropylene*** or a blend of grafted polyolefins and (2) from 0 to 90 wt% of at least one other thermo plastic polymer having a melting point below 280°C.

Hall does not ***specifically*** disclose either a maleic anhydride grafted polypropylene or a blend of grafted polyolefins. Quite to the contrary, every claim of Hall requires a ***single***

polymer component. With respect to maleic anhydride grafting, Hall ***does not specifically disclose*** maleic anhydride grafted polypropylene.

Hall's generic boilerplate disclosure that polypropylene may be a modified polymer, without more, does not constitute a disclosure of the claimed invention.

In column 5, Hall discloses ***eighteen*** possible carboxylic acids with which the polyolefin may be modified. Furthermore, Hall discloses that carboxylic esters, carboxylic anhydrides, acyl chlorides, amides and thiol esters as derivatives of the above carboxylic acids ***are equivalent to carboxylic acids***, leaving $(6 \times 18 = 108)$ over ***100 possible modifiers one of ordinary skill would have looked to as a modifier for polypropylene.***

Finally, Hall discloses that ***high density polyethylene*** grafted with maleic anhydride is preferred (col. 6, lines 37-39), leading one of ordinary skill to conclude that polypropylene modified with maleic anhydride may well have been considered and rejected by Hall.

It is respectfully submitted that the anticipation rejection over Hall is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Should any additional fee be due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,

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